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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10 064,953	09 04 2002	Yukimitsu Suzuki	09993-US-212	4806

31561 7590 06 05 2003

JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100
ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2
TAIPEI, 100
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

SHAW, CLIFFORD C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1725	

DATE MAILED: 06 05 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Detailed Action

1.) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.) Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 4, 5, and 6, it is not clear if the claims are dependent claims or independent claims. In claim 4, lines 4-5, applicant refers to "an effective heat computation means according to claim 1". The claim 1 "effective heat computation means" cooperates with several other elements in claim 1 for its functioning, and it is not clear if applicant intends to incorporate all of these claim 1 elements into claim 4. Because it is not clear what portion of claim 1 is incorporated into claim 4, the scope of claim 4 is unclear. Similar problems apply to claims 5 and 6. These claims refer to individual elements in claims 3, 4, and 5, but it is not clear how these references determine the scope of claims 5 and 6. In claim 7, lines 1-2, it is not clear what is meant by "Claims 1 through characterized [sic]" and in line 5, it is not clear what is meant by "Claims 1 6 [sic]". If applicant intended claims 7 to be a multiple dependent claim depending from claims 1 through 6, he is advised that claim 6 appears to be intended to be a multiple dependent claim since it references both claims 4 and 5. When applicant amends claim 7, he is to avoid having a multiple dependent claim depend from another multiple dependent claim.

3.) Claims 1-3 are allowable over the prior art of record. None of the prior art of record discloses an arc welding quality evaluation apparatus that includes a spatter weight detection means combined with the other claim elements.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/064,953	SUZUKI, YUKIMITSU
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Clifford C Shaw	1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

4.) Claims 4-7 are too vague and indefinite for any prior art to be applied thereto.

5.) The patent to Nied et al. (4,613,743) is cited to show a weld evaluation unit that monitors cross sectional area of the molten pool. The patent to Allen (5,676,867) is cited to show a prior art weld evaluation unit that monitors heat input into a weld. The Japanese document no. 9-57442 and the Japanese document no. 10-137938 are documents discussed by applicant in his specification.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Clifford C Shaw at telephone number 703-308-1712. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday of the first week of the pay period and on Tuesday through Friday of the second week of the pay period.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Thomas G. Dunn, can be reached at 703-308-3318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Clifford C Shaw
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

June 2, 2003